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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... June 15, 1954 ..... SS 139

## Favorable Crop Outlook

The crop situation in May was favorable for the country as a whole. Soil moisture supplies were largely replenished during May and most areas not adequately supplied by the end of the month received rains in early June. The drought was broken in much but not all of the Southwest. Irrigation water supplies vary from ample in the North to short in central areas and critically short in New Mexico.

## Winter Wheat Prospects Continue To Improve

Winter wheat production will be only 11 percent below average despite sharply reduced plantings in leading States and heavy abandonment in the Great Plains drought area. Production is forecast at 740 million bushels, up 33 million from May 1. This compares with 878 million bushels produced in 1953 and average production of 833 million bushels. Yield per acre is estimated at 19.6 bushels, which, if realized, will be the second highest of record.

## Spring Wheat Crop About A Tenth Below Average

A spring wheat crop of nearly 260 million bushels is forecast. This compares with 291,025,000 bushels produced in 1953, and is about a tenth less than average, largely due to the sharp acreage reduction.

The durum wheat crop is forecast at 19 million bushels, compared with 13 million bushels produced in 1953 and the average of 35½ million bushels.

## Rye Prospects Improved

Rye prospects improved over a million bushels in May and the estimated production is now 20.9 million bushels. This compares with the 1953 crop of 18 million bushels and the average of 22.1 million bushels.

## Planting Progress

Corn planting moved to an early finish in a large part of the main Corn Belt and was mostly completed by June 1. Soybean planting was well advanced in most important areas. A start was made on planting a much increased sorghum acreage. Extensive and repeated replantings of cotton were caused by cold and rainy weather; some early chopped stands are poor, but most replantings have a good start. Peanut plantings were delayed in most important producing areas and stands and prospects were injured by cold weather. Tobacco setting advanced normally with good starts, despite some disease.

## Hay And Pasture Condition Poor

Hay crops received severe setbacks in important producing States from cold weather and insect damage and will do well to reach more than the recent 5-year average of about 103 million tons.

Pastures grew slowly in the eastern two-thirds of the country and northern parts of the West. The June

1 condition of 80 percent is lowest for the date since 1941. Pasture and range feed flourished over much of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas and in the Pacific Northwest, but is poor in most of Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

## Fruit

The outlook for 1954 deciduous fruits is generally good. However, in a few areas, fruit crops were damaged by late freezes. Grapes, apples, peaches, and prunes are showing more favorable prospects than a year ago, pears about the same, while smaller outturns of apricots and plums are expected.

Prospects for the 1954-55 citrus crop are good in all producing States. Harvest of the 1953-54 citrus, except for the late varieties in California, is nearing completion.

## Vegetables

Vegetables for commercial processing will be grown on an acreage 5 percent smaller than in 1953 and 9 percent below average. Progress of these crops has been delayed by cool weather in some areas and dry weather in others, so that in general they are 7 to 10 days behind normal.

Total production of spring vegetables and melons for fresh market will be about 4 percent more than in 1953, even though unfavorable May weather reduced prospects for some crops. Larger early summer crops of most principal vegetables and melons are also expected.

## Early Potato Crop Small

Market supplies of early commercial potatoes will continue relatively small, the total outturn being nearly a fifth less than in 1953 and an eighth below average.

## Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	May, 1954
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	258
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & wage rates .....	1910-14=100	284
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	91
Farm wage rates.....	1910-14=100	1507
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1104
Retail prices of food .....	1947-49=100	1112
Weekly factory earnings .....	1947-49=100	1135

## Production Comparisons

Item	Jan.-May, 1953	Jan.-May, 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	51.1	53.4
Eggs, (bil.).....	28.9	29.9
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2,867	3,112
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	2,625	3,142
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	225	221
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	6,932	6,734

<sup>1</sup> April figures.

<sup>2</sup> January-April under Federal inspection.

## May Egg Production Up From Year Earlier

More than 6 billion eggs were laid in May--4 percent more than in May 1953 and nearly up to average for the month. The rate of lay was slightly higher than last May and above average, while the number of layers was 3 percent larger than a year ago, but 4 percent below average. Young chickens on farms number 7 percent more than on June 1, 1953, but 10 percent below average.

## Milk Production Continues High

Production of milk during May is estimated at 13,178 million pounds--4 percent above production in May 1953 and 7 percent above the average May output in 1943-52. Milk production in the first 5 months of 1954 totaled 53.4 billion pounds, 2.3 billion pounds above last year's previous January-May record.

## Dairy and Poultry Products--April

Item	April 1954	Percentage change--	
		Apr. 1954 from Apr. 1953	Jan.-Apr. 1954 from Jan.-Apr. 1953
Chicks hatched <sup>1</sup> .....	Millions 309	Percent +7	Percent +11
Chicks placed <sup>2</sup> .....	67	+5	+ 6
Poults hatched: <sup>1</sup>			
Heavy breeds.....	13.7	+7	+ 8
Light breeds.....	2.3	+3	+24
Turkey breeders tested:	Thous. <sup>3</sup> 4.2	---	---
Heavy breeds.....	<sup>3</sup> 18.6	<sup>4</sup> +217	<sup>4</sup> +49
Poultry canned.....	1,000 pounds 19,221	+48	+ 6
Production:			
Liquid egg.....	85,030	+15	+24
Dried egg (egg solids).....	3,104	+42	+66
Frozen egg.....	70,332	+ 9	+16
Evaporated whole milk.....	243,100	0	-2
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	138,350	+ 7	+19
Butter, creamery .....	141,305	+ 5	+11
Cheese, American .....	97,400	+ 5	+13
Ice cream .....	1,000 gallons 51,235	+ 7	+ 1

<sup>1</sup>By commercial hatcheries.

<sup>2</sup>13 principal producing areas.

<sup>3</sup>May.

<sup>4</sup>July-May.

## 1953 Meat Production Was Second Highest

Meat production during 1953 totaled 24.8 billion pounds, 8 percent more than the 23.0 billion pounds produced in 1952 and second only to the record production of 25.2 billion pounds in 1944. Beef production of 12.4 billion pounds was at a record level, 29 percent more than in 1952. Veal production was up 33 percent from 1952; mutton and lamb production was up 12 percent. Pork production totaled 10 billion pounds, 13 percent less than in 1952.

## Naval Stores Production 1953-54 Season

Production of gum turpentine during the 1953-54 crop year totaled 177,680 barrels, 18 percent less than for the 1952-53 season. Wood turpentine production during the season amounted to 360,170 barrels, up about 4 percent from the previous crop year.

Production of gum and steam distilled wood rosin of 1,744,960 drums was 1 percent higher than for the 1952-53 season.

## Farm-Mortgage Debt Increases in 1953

Total farm-mortgage debt on January 1, 1954, is estimated at \$7,660 million, the highest since January 1, 1934, but about 29 percent below the peak of \$10,786 million in 1923. This was the eighth consecutive year in which farm-mortgage debt increased; at the end of the year it was about 7 percent above a year earlier. Increases took place in all States and regions in 1953.

## Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	May 1953	Apr. 1954	May 1954
Prices received by farmers .....	263	257	258
Crops.....	247	240	249
Food grains.....	242	234	227
Feed grains and hay.....	212	208	207
Tobacco.....	426	443	446
Cotton.....	269	267	272
Fruit.....	206	217	215
Com. veg. for fresh mkt .....	259	225	279
Oil-bearing crops.....	286	283	286
Livestock and products .....	277	271	267
Meat animals.....	317	333	331
Dairy products.....	256	237	230
Poultry and eggs .....	218	178	168
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	<sup>1</sup> 263	265	267
Commodities used in living .....	270	273	276
Commodities used in production..	<sup>1</sup> 256	256	256
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates .....	280	283	284
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers) .....	94	91	91

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

## Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and Unit	Average Price		Parity Price May 15, 1954
	Apr. 15, 1954	May 15, 1954	
Wheat, bu. ....	dol.	2.06	2.00
Corn, bu. ....	dol.	1.45	1.47
Peanuts, lb. ....	ct.	11.2	11.2
Cotton, lb. <sup>1</sup> .....	ct.	31.57	32.17
Potatoes, bu. ....	dol.	.702	1.34
Hogs, 100 lb. ....	dol.	26.60	25.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....	dol.	17.10	17.60
Calves, 100 lb. ....	dol.	18.10	18.40
Lambs, 100 lb. ....	dol.	21.80	21.80
Butterfat, lb. ....	ct.	56.8	56.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....	dol.	3.68	2.50
Chickens, live, lb. ....	ct.	23.7	22.5
Eggs, doz. ....	ct.	35.0	33.1

<sup>1</sup>American upland cotton.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

## More Silage Fed To Milk Cows

Roughage fed per milk cow during the October 1953-May 1954 winter feeding season in herds kept by the Department's dairy reporters averaged 2.2 tons of hay, 2.1 tons of silage, and 0.1 ton of other dry roughage, or a combined hay equivalent of 2.9 tons. The amount of hay fed was about in line with that of other years, but the amount of silage has increased steadily over the last decade.

Of the hay fed, 59 percent was alfalfa and mixed alfalfa. About 85 percent of the hay was home-grown.

Of the silage fed to milk cows, 71 percent was corn silage, 22 percent was grass silage, and 7 percent other silage.

About 67 percent of the reports showed baled hay being fed.

## Farm Employment Rises Seasonally

About  $9\frac{1}{4}$  million people were at work on farms in late May; 7,250,000 of these were family workers. The increase of about three-quarters of a million in all workers from a month earlier was a little less than the usual increase. The number of hired workers was up by about the usual amount for the season but the increase in the number of family workers did not reach the average of recent years. The less-than-usual seasonal rise is largely accounted for by favorable weather which permitted a more even distribution of work.

There were a few more hired workers employed than a year ago but the increase was not enough to balance a 2-percent decrease in the number of family workers. Total employment was slightly less than a year earlier.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

### Cash Receipts From Farming, United States<sup>1</sup>

Source	April 1954	May 1954 <sup>2</sup>
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	1,881	1,900
Livestock and products .....	1,387	1,400
Meat animals .....	758	
Dairy products .....	345	
Poultry and eggs .....	258	
Other .....	26	
Crops.....	494	500
Food grains.....	37	
Feed crops.....	119	
Cotton (lint and seed) .....	41	
Oil-bearing crops.....	38	
Tobacco .....	7	
Vegetables .....	81	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	58	
Other .....	113	
Government payments .....	33	
Total cash receipts.....	1,914	

<sup>1</sup>For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. Revised estimates for January-March are available in Farm Income Situation, June 1954.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup>Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, April 1954.<sup>1,2</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine .....	8,353	5,572	13,925
New Hampshire.....	4,564	963	5,527
Vermont .....	7,507	1,826	9,333
Massachusetts .....	10,022	4,916	14,938
Rhode Island.....	1,465	557	2,022
Connecticut .....	9,450	5,838	15,288
New York.....	48,035	15,963	63,998
New Jersey.....	18,004	5,614	23,618
Pennsylvania .....	46,461	14,500	60,961
North Atlantic.....	153,861	55,749	209,610
Ohio.....	62,477	20,451	82,928
Indiana .....	68,165	20,182	88,347
Illinois .....	105,611	50,413	156,024
Michigan.....	35,000	12,956	47,956
Wisconsin .....	75,107	5,629	80,736
East North Central.....	346,360	109,631	455,991
Minnesota .....	71,009	18,614	89,623
Iowa.....	145,799	20,091	165,890
Missouri.....	64,186	7,127	71,313
North Dakota .....	7,411	5,826	13,237
South Dakota .....	25,803	6,122	31,925
Nebraska .....	69,511	15,599	85,110
Kansas .....	40,593	11,015	51,608
West North Central.....	424,312	84,394	508,706
Delaware .....	5,767	931	6,698
Maryland.....	14,082	2,706	16,788
Virginia.....	19,656	4,735	24,391
West Virginia .....	6,505	1,432	7,937
North Carolina.....	18,164	7,469	25,633
South Carolina .....	7,752	4,465	12,217
Georgia .....	20,640	12,172	32,812
Florida.....	10,281	53,970	64,251
South Atlantic .....	102,847	87,880	190,727
Kentucky.....	19,232	2,296	21,528
Tennessee.....	17,051	2,992	20,043
Alabama .....	14,402	5,398	19,800
Mississippi .....	12,188	4,179	16,367
Arkansas .....	14,018	3,469	17,487
Louisiana .....	9,836	7,810	17,646
Oklahoma.....	20,046	1,028	21,074
Texas.....	76,079	33,923	110,002
South Central.....	182,852	61,095	243,947
Montana.....	7,440	6,838	14,278
Idaho.....	9,674	4,609	14,283
Wyoming.....	4,516	1,163	5,679
Colorado.....	25,288	4,906	30,194
New Mexico.....	7,483	703	8,186
Arizona .....	9,163	8,189	17,352
Utah.....	8,263	947	9,210
Nevada .....	2,383	263	2,646
Washington.....	13,683	11,061	24,744
Oregon .....	12,136	5,990	18,126
California .....	76,934	50,304	127,238
Western Region.....	176,963	94,973	271,936
United States .....	1,387,195	493,722	1,880,917

<sup>1</sup>All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

<sup>2</sup>For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. Revised estimates for January-March are available in Farm Income Situation, June 1954.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's  
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average.....	\$1,002	\$452	\$550	45%
1953--Apr. ....	988	445	543	45
1954--Mar. <sup>3</sup> .....	987	437	550	44
Apr. <sup>4</sup> .....	984	444	540	45

<sup>1</sup>Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup>Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

<sup>4</sup>Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

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